



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEAUMONT WOMAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

(Beaumont, TX) A 43-year-old Beaumont woman was arrested this morning after being indicted for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Phyllis Cartwright was indicted by a federal grand jury earlier this month and arrested this morning at her residence. Cartwright was brought before United States Magistrate Judge Keith Giblin for an initial appearance.

According to the indictment, on August 3, 2004, Cartwright was in possession of a J.C. Higgins, 12 gauge shotgun. Cartwright is prohibited from possessing a firearm because she is a convicted felon.

This case is part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative. PSN is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun law enforcement that targets gun crime and violent offenders in an effort to make our communities safer. As a result of this concentrated approach by law enforcement, prosecution of federal gun crimes in the last four years has increased by 76% across America. In the Eastern District of Texas, gun crime prosecutions are up an impressive 93%.

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If convicted, Cartwright faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. A Grand Jury indictment is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Cartwright was ordered temporarily detained until a detention hearing scheduled for May 24, 2005.

The case is being investigated by the Beaumont Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Wannarka is prosecuting the case.

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